

# POPE AND OBAMA NOT ON THE SAME PAGE

When Pope Benedict XVI released his encyclical *Charity in Truth* reports were that the Holy Father was to the left of President Barack Obama on some issues.

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good advised Catholics to suggest that their pastors give homilies “highlighting the Pope’s reflections on social justice and the common good.” Notice what they excluded: the pope’s thoughts on the sanctity of human life, bioethics, the indiscriminate acceptance of all lifestyles, sexuality as a form of entertainment, etc.

In his encyclical, the pope says that “*respect for life*” [his italics] is “an aspect which has acquired increasing prominence in recent time, obliging us to broaden our concept of poverty....” Are the pope’s new fans prepared to think of abortion as a poverty issue?

The best way to service the poor, according to the pope, is not to create bureaucratic monstrosities that cripple the dignity of the indigent. “By considering reciprocity as the heart of what it is to be a human being, [the principle of] subsidiarity is the most effective antidote against any form of all-encompassing welfare state.” Similarly, he admonishes us not to promote “paternalist social assistance that is demeaning to those in need.” Not exactly what those who work for HHS want to hear.

Finally, when the pope slams greed and criticizes a market economy shorn of moral principles, he is hardly upsetting most of those who champion the rights of the unborn.